

MUSIC THEORY MIDWEST

Fall 2022 Newsletter

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Music Theory Midwest Thirty-Fourth Annual Conference University of Manitoba May 5–6, 2023

The University of Manitoba will host the Thirty-Fourth Annual Conference of Music Theory Midwest, on May 5–6, 2023.

Proposals should be submitted by February 15, 2023. See the Call for Papers below for further details.

The conference will feature a combined keynote and workshop with Dylan Robinson (University of British Columbia). Some workshop activities will occur remotely prior to the conference and the workshop will culminate with in-person activities in conjunction with the keynote address. See the Call for Workshop Participants below for further details.

MTMW will be holding elections for five positions in spring 2023 and is seeking nominations. See the Call for Nominations below for further details.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are deep into planning our MTMW conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Our local arrangement chairs, Rebecca Simpson-Litke and David Byrne, have already worked out a terrific rate (approx. US\$90) at the conference hotel, a complimentary shuttle to provide transportation between the hotel and conference activities, and opportunities for us to explore some of Winnipeg's cultural institutions. There are direct flights to Winnipeg from Minneapolis, Toronto, and many other major Canadian cities.

Winnipeg is the capital of Manitoba and its largest city, with a population of over 700,000 and a diversified economy. Manitoba's population is nearly 20% Indigenous, and the city of Winnipeg has a strong and diverse Indigenous Arts scene, including dedicated performance and exhibition spaces and the national headquarters for the Indigenous broadcaster APTN. The city supports a vibrant array of outstanding cultural, visual, and performing arts institutions, including the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the West End Cultural Centre, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Manitoba Opera, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, and the Winnipeg Jazz, New Music, Fringe, and Folk Festivals. For more on Arts and Culture in Manitoba, please see: <https://www.travelmanitoba.com/things-to-do/arts-culture/>

We are exploring a different format for this year's workshop program: workshop activities will start via Zoom prior to the conference and will culminate with face-to-face work as part of the keynote. Our keynote speaker and workshop leader is **Dylan Robinson**, Associate Professor of Music at the University of British Columbia and author of the award-winning book *Hungry Listening* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020). Dr. Robinson is a xwélmexw (Stó:lō/Skwah) artist, curator and writer. From 2015-2022 he was the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Arts at Queen's University. We have been working through ideas for creating space for meaningful conversations, and I am excited by what we have come up with.

I hope you will plan on joining us in Winnipeg on May 5–6, 2023.

– Jan Miyake, MTMW President

CALL FOR PAPERS

Music Theory Midwest invites scholars from all geographic regions to submit proposals on any area of music theory and analysis for our annual conference. As is tradition at MTMW, we encourage proposals on composers, musicians, events, artifacts, objects, and technologies with significant anniversaries in 2023, and we welcome proposals for special sessions devoted to these or any other topics.

Some notable anniversaries in 2023:

Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia (1723–1787); telescope opened at the Arecibo Observatory (1963); the ATM is patented (1973); William Byrd (d. 1623); Maria Callas (1923–1977); CinemaScope debuted (1953); invention of the Composer-Tron (1953); founding of Disney (1923); invention of the Electrochord (1933); invention of the Emiriton (1943); Herbie Hancock's *Head Hunters* (1973); Édouard Lalo (1823–1892); invention of the lava lamp (1963); György Ligeti (1923–2006); invention of the Mellotron, Novatron & Akaphon (1963); Joni Mitchell (b. 1943); Yoko Ono (b. 1933); Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon* (1973); Tito Puente (1923–2000); Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943); Max Reger (1873–1916); Ned Rorem (b. 1923); Franz Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* (1823); Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* (1973); invention of the Staccatone (1923); Hank Williams (1923–1953); Pharrell Williams (b. 1973); and Stevie Wonder's *Innervisions* (1973).

Individual Presentations

Papers should be planned for 20-minute presentations. Papers should not previously have been presented at national or international conferences, nor should they have been previously published. Only one proposal per submitter will be considered.

Proposals should be submitted electronically via the MTMW website. Submissions are due by February 15, 2023. Submit the proposal and supplemental materials as a single document in PDF format. The proposal should not exceed 500 words, including any footnotes or endnotes but not including the title. A maximum of four pages of supplementary materials (such as musical examples, diagrams, and bibliography) may be appended, and are excluded from the word count, but these materials should not add appreciably to the proposal's content. The proposal must include the title of the paper but exclude the author's name and any other identifying information. Such information should also be removed from the metadata of the file.

Special Sessions

Proposals for special sessions have no specific page limit. The names of the organizer and all participants should be indicated on the online submission form. Special sessions should be organized in such a way that the program committee could not create them from separately submitted individual proposals. Anyone wishing to propose a special session should contact the Program Committee chair, Daphne Tan (pcc@mtmw.org), well in advance of the proposal deadline.

Arthur J. Komar Award

Student presenters who wish to be considered for this award must indicate their eligibility in the online submission form. For the purposes of this award, "student" status terminates with the receipt of a terminal degree or employment in a full-time position. Additional information and a list of past recipients can be found at the MTMW website.

Submissions

To submit a proposal, visit the Call for Papers page on the MTMW website:
<https://mtmw.org/index.php/conferences/call-for-papers>.

Deadline

Submissions must be received by February 15, 2023.

Notification

Those submitting proposals will receive notification of the program committee's decision in mid to late March.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated with several criteria, including:

- Engagement with existing literature
- Quality and intelligibility of writing style
- Musicality and relevance of analyses
- Effective use of illustrations or examples
- Contribution to the field
- Strength and cogency of argument

Program Committee

Daphne Tan (University of Toronto), chair; Owen Belcher (University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory); Trevor de Clercq (Middle Tennessee State University); Orit Hilewicz (Indiana University); Yiqing Ma (University of Michigan, 2022 Komar winner); Daniele Sofer (University of Dayton); and Jan Miyake (Oberlin College and Conservatory), *ex officio*.

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

All conference registrants will be invited to participate in the pre-conference workshop activities. Members who would like to participate in these activities to the fullest extent are strongly encouraged to register for the conference by April 1, 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 Arthur J. Komar Award

The recipient of the 2022 Arthur J. Komar Award for outstanding student presentation at the annual meeting is Yiqing Ma (University of Michigan). Honorable mentions were given to Rachel Gain (University of North Texas) and Samantha Waddell (Indiana University).

Yiqing Ma (University of Michigan): "Theorizing Vocal Timbre in J-Pop: A Feminist Reading." Through a critical analysis of Shiina Ringo's songs, Ma demonstrated how the utilization of several Japanese vocal timbres suggest different images of Japanese femininity in Ringo's music. In this presentation Ma opens up new avenues of inquiry in terms of vocal timbre, feminist analysis, and gender performance.

Rachel Gain (University of North Texas): "Beyond the Audible: Embodied Choreographic Syncopations in Rhythm Tap Dance." Gain presented a new analytic methodology—*Gainotation*—for considering tap choreography as an embodied rhythm. Through examples and performance Gain demonstrated how these embodied rhythms can create misalignments with seemingly normative motor rhythm.

Samantha Waddell (Indiana University): "Storytelling Through Metric Manipulation in Popular Music." Waddell showed how different types of metrical manipulations can embody lyrical meaning and have an expressive impact on the listener, and provided a useful analytical model for future studies of meter in pop.

Congratulations to the recipient and honorable mentions and thanks to the Komar Award Committee: Beth Hiser (Baldwin Wallace University), chair; Matthew Ferrandino (Oklahoma State University); and Aaron Grant (Missouri Western State University).

Executive Committee Election Results

Elections were held in spring 2022 for four positions. New members of the Executive Committee are Andrew Pau (Oberlin College and Conservatory), Secretary; Johanna Frymoyer (Notre Dame University), Area II Representative; Joon Park (University of Arkansas), Area IV Representative; and Clair Nguyen (University of Cincinnati), Student Representative, Areas I and III.

Sincere thanks to the outgoing members for their service: Olga Sánchez-Kisielewska (University of Chicago), Secretary; Rebecca Perry (Lawrence University), Area II Representative; Clare Eng (Belmont University), Area IV Representative; and Tyler Secor (University of Cincinnati), Student Representative, Areas I and III.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In spring 2023, Music Theory Midwest will hold elections for the positions of President, Treasurer, Area I Representative (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Western Ontario), Area III Representative (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba), and Student Representative for Areas II and IV (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin; Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee).

Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. ***As two scholars have already accepted nominations for President, nominations are especially welcome for the other positions.*** Qualified nominees should be music theorists who reside or teach in the areas that they represent. Student representatives should be engaged in graduate studies and should expect to continue their student status for at least one year after taking office. Students may not serve as officers or area representatives. Elected members of the Executive Committee should plan to attend the annual conference and participate in the business meeting. Further information concerning the duties of Executive Committee members and election procedures may be found in the bylaws, available on the MTMW website.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Scott Murphy (University of Kansas), chair; Leah Frederick (University of Michigan); and James Sullivan (Michigan State University). Please send nominations to nominate@mtmw.org by February 15, 2023.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership in Music Theory Midwest is for the calendar year. The financial well-being of the society relies on a consistent membership base. Renewing your membership for 2023 supports the society, ensures that you will receive newsletters and communications, and enables you to vote in the election.

MTMW is continuing the flexible approach to membership renewals adopted in 2020. You can join or renew at any of the fee levels on the website, irrespective of your status: \$5, \$10, \$15, \$25, or \$35. For reference, our standard, pre-pandemic annual dues were \$10 for student membership, \$15 for emeritus or subsidized membership, \$25 for regular membership, and \$35 for joint membership.

Donations to the Arthur J. Komar Award are always welcome. Please contact the Treasurer (treasurer@mtmw.org) to make a donation.

Check your membership status and select annual dues at the MTMW website:
<https://mtmw.org/index.php/my-mtmw/renew-membership/>